To the Chairman and Members of the Warrington Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in again presenting to you my annual report for the year ended December 31st, 1898, on the health and sanitary condition of your district, of the work that has been done during the year, and the returns of births and deaths, as sent to me by the several Registrars.

POPULATION 11,070 AND AREA 15,549 ACRES.

In estimating the population my calculations are based as usual on—

Excess of Births over Deaths	153
One-hundred and four New Houses, at Five persons per house	520
Estimated Population for 1897	10397
Estimated Population to middle of 1898	11070

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The Registrars have returned to me 305 Births and 152 Deaths, against 284 Births and 149 Deaths last year. This will give a Birth rate equal to 27·5, and a death rate of 13-7 per thousand of the population.

The Births and Deaths have occured in the following sub-registration districts of

	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Sankey	84	96	180	45	42	87
Winwick	26	26	52	18	19	37
Rixton	40	33	73	18	10	28
Total	150	155	305	81	71	152

The Birth and Death rates for the Registration Districts will be as follows, and compared with the last seven years.

	1891.		1892.		1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Birth.	Death.	Birth.	Death.	Birth.	Death.	Birth.	Death.	Birth.	Death.	Birth.	Death.	Birth.	Death.	Birth.	Death.
Sankey	26·5	18·3	31·1	18·8	31·5	15·5	38·8	10·6	39·6	14·6	34·3	18·4	33·3	13·9	34·05	16·4
Winwick	22·4	19·3	24·0	12·9	20·1	11·5	24·8	16·9	19·3	16·9	23·3	13·1	28·04	27·8	25·5	18·1
Rixton	29·4	26·0	31·1	18·0	20·09	16·7	28·6	11·3	17·9	12·4	20·3	9·8	18·7	11·1	19·4	7·4
Total	28·1	19·1	31·7	17·8	26·3	16·5	30·8	12·6	30·7	14·1	27·9	13·4	27·4	14·3	27·5	13·7

The 152 Deaths were produced by the following Diseases viz :—

Zymotic Diseases (Seven Principal)	21
Tubercular	11
Diseases of Respiratory Organs	22
Heart Disease	11
Injuries	14
Other Diseases, including Old Age	73
	152

The ages of Mortality were :—

Under 1 year of age	41
Between 1 and 5 years of age	14
,, 5 ,, 15 ,, ...	12
,, 15 ,, 25 ,, ...	7
,, 25 ,, 65 ,, ...	48
Over 65 years of age	30
Total	152

The Infant Death Rate is slightly lower than last year and equals 134·4 to a thousand births.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Twenty-one Deaths were caused by the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases, which is a little above the average. The Zymotic Death Rate is equal to 1·8 per thousand of the population.

Smallpox	nil
Scarlet Fever	nil
Measles...	3
Diphtheria	1
Whooping Cough and Croup	2
Diarrhœa and Dysentery...	12
Enteric and other Fevers...	3
Total	21

The Zymotic Deaths were distributed in the following Sub-Registration Districts of :—

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATES FOR EIGHT YEARS.

			1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Sankey	14	Cases,	·4	·9	2·9	1·5	1·05	1·8	1·7	2.6
Winwick	6	,,	1·2	nil	1·2	2·4	3·0	nil	3·7	2·9
Rixton	1	,,	1·3	nil	2·3	2·1	1·2	·2	1·6	·26
Number of cases for 1898	21		·99	·67	3·1	1·8	1·3	1·1	1·9	1·8

The Death rate from Phthisis ... . ·99
,, ,, ,, Respiratory Organs ... 1·9 } Per 1,000 of the Population.

During the year, the following Infectious Deseases have been reported to me under the Compulsory Notification Act, viz:—

Scarlet Fever	45 cases	Nil deaths.
Enteric Fever	5 ,,	3 deaths.
Diphtheria	2 ,,	1 death.
Erysipelas	3 ,,	Nil deaths.
Puerperal Fever	1 ,,	Nil deaths.

The Infectious Diseases were distributed in the following Sub-registration Districts of:—

	Scarlet Fever		Enteric Fever		Erysipelas.		Diptheria		Puerperal Fever.	
Sankey.....	13 cases	nil deaths	1 cases	1 deaths	nil cases	nil deaths	nil cases	nil deaths	nil cases	nil deaths
Winwick.....	22 ,,	nil ,,	4 ,,	2 ,,	1 ,,	nil ,,	2 ,,	1 ,,	nil ,,	nil deaths
Rixton.....	10 ,,	nil ,,	nil ,,	nil ,,	2 ,,	nil ,,	nil ,,	nil ,,	1 ,,	nil deaths

SMALLPOX.—The district has remained entirely free from this disease during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.—The disease was present in some part of the district, more or less throughout the year but was most prevalent in May at Croft, and November at Martinscroft, where most of the forty-five cases notified occurred. The disease was of a mild type, and no deaths resulted therefrom. I sent two of these cases into Hospital for treatment, the rest being fairly isolated, were allowed to remain under treatment at home. I ordered the schools at Croft and Martinscroft to be closed for a month. The first case notified on January 28th inst. was brought into the district from Moss Side Manchester.

MEASLES.—This disease is not notifiable and assumed an epidemic form in June at Padgate, where I ascertained there were about twenty-one cases in a few days. I recommended the Managers to close the schools for 14 days, which was done, and the outbreak subsided. Three deaths occured from this disease in Sankey sub-registration districts.

ENTERIC FEVER.—During the year five cases of this disease were notified, four in the Winwick and one in the Sankey district, three of which proved fatal. The first fatal case occured at Ainsworth's, Farnworth Road Penketh. These premises were found in an unsanitary condition, drainage and closet accomodation defective. Three of the other cases occured in new houses built on good sanitary principles, and not connected with any old drains. The fourth case occured in an old house, but no insanitary conditions were found to account for the disease, one of these cases was sent into Hospital for treatment.

DIPHTHERIA.—Two cases of this disease were notified from Orford, the first Case proved fatal the day after being notified. Both cases occured in the same house; the premises were inspected, but nothing of an insanitary condition could be found.

ERYSIPELAS.—Three cases only were notified which is below the average of former years, none of which proved fatal.

WHOOPING COUGH.—Several cases of this disease occured during the year, mostly in the Sankey district, two of which proved fatal.

CROUP.—There has been an entire absence of this disease during the year.

DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY.—Twelve deaths occured from these diseases, mostly in the months of September and October, and in children under one year of age. This number is slightly above the average of former years and, in most cases was caused by improper feeding.

INFLUENZA.—Very few cases of this disease occured during the year; it is not notifiable. Two cases of death are returned as Influenza, but, complicated with Pneumonia, which is the most probable cause of death, and included under that head.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The same arrangements exist as in former years, with the Warrington Corporation for the reception of infectious cases into their Hospital, and during the year two cases of scarlet Fever, and one of Typhoid Fever have been sent in for treatment.

WATER SUPPLY.—The entire district is well and plentifully supplied with pure water.

ROUTINE WORK.—Both your Inspector and I have very frequently visited and inspected every part of your councils district, and any insanitary defects, have been from time to time laid before you remedied. We have endeavoured to keep the district in as good a sanitary condition as possible, by frequently inspecting Common Lodging Houses, Bakehouses, Slaughter Houses, Cowsheds, Dairies, Milk Shops, Knackers' Yards, and have succeeded in keeping these in a good sanitary condition, and on the whole very satisfactory both as regards lighting, ventilation and cleanliness. I have brought under your notice polluted streams, dilapidated houses unfit for habitation, and have advised your Council upon conditions likely to affect the public health.

THE SCAVENGING AND EMPTYING OF PAILS AND ASHPITS.—This work, as in the past year, has been very fairly done by your Contractor.

THE SEWAGE WORKS AT BURTONWOOD. These works are in full operation and continue to give very satisfactory results, without any complaints

Enclosed you have Mortality and Sickness Returns with Inspector's report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD SEPHTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

Springfield, Culcheth, nr. Warrington.

March 18th, 1899.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the WARRINGTON Rural District Council District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages. (b) At all Ages	(c) Under 1 year	(d) 1 and under 5	(e) 5 and under 15	(f) 15 and under 25	(g) 25 and under 65	(h) 65 and upwards
Sankey	87	31	9	4	3	30	10
Winwick	37	6	2	7	2	9	11
Rixton	28	4	3	1	2	9	9
Total ...	152	41	14	12	7	48	30
Deaths occuring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.							
Deaths occuring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.							

Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of children under five years of age. (i)	Smallpox 1	Scarlatina 2	Diphtheria 3	Membranous Croupe 4	Fevers. Typhus 5	Enteric or Typhoid 6	Continued 7	Relapsing 8	Puerperal 9	English Cholera 10	Erysipelas 11	Measles 12	Whooping Cough 13	Diarrhœa and Dysentery 14	Rheumatic Fever 15	Phthisis 16	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy 17	Heart Disease 18	Influenza 19	Injuries 20	All other Diseases 21	Total
Sankey: Under 5,												3	2	8		1	2				24	40
Sankey: 5 upwards.						1										6	7	4		10	19	47
Winwick: Under 5,														3			2				3	8
Winwick: 5 upwards.			1			2											6	3			17	29
Rixton: Under 5,														1			2			2	2	7
Rixton: 5 upwards.																4	3	4		2	8	21
Total: Under 5,												3	2	12		1	6			2	29	55
Total: 5 upwards.			1			3										10	16	11		12	44	97

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the Warrington Rural District Council District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	Population at all Ages. Last Census. (b)	Estimated to middle of 1897. (c)	Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health. Smallpox 1	Scarletina 2	Diphtheria 3	Membranous Croup 4	Fevers. Typhus 5	Enteric or Typhoid 6	Continued 7	Relapsing 8	Puerperal 9	English Cholera 10	Erysipelas 11	Measles not notifiable. 12	Scarletina 13	
Sankey	4046	5286	180	Under 5														
				5 upwards		13				1								
Winwick	1601	2033	52	Under 5														
				5 upwards		22	2			4					1		1	
Rixton	2776	3751	73	Under 5														
				5 upwards		10							1		2	21	1	
Total	8423	11070	305	Under 5														
				5 upwards		45	2			5			1		3	21	2	Two cases of Scarlatina and one Enteric or Typhoid sent to Warrington Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Return of Work for the Year 1898.

Old drains taken up, cleaned and relaid		28
New drains laid		2
Trapped gullies laid down to old drains		21
New privies erected		3
Dilapidated, wet and offensive privies, and ashpits ...		19
Privies converted to pail system		1
Defective privy pails		10
Privies in a full and offensive condition		44
Houses dilapidated and out of repair		5
Offensive cesspools		6
Defective channels		5
New slopstones put in		9
Slopstone pipes repaired		5
Dwelling houses defective in ventilation		2
Spouting defective		7
Back yards defective		5
Premises in a dirty state		1
Houses over-crowded		1
Drainage from cowsheds defective		4
Offensive ditches piped and filled up		4
Offensive pits cleaned out		1
Water courses cleaned out		3
Works in a dirty and filthy state		1
Accumulations of offensive manure		5
Wells used for domestic purposes cleaned out		1
Houses supplied with Corporation Water		14
Old wells sunk deeper		2
Certificates issued for new houses under Public Health Water Act, 1878, by Inspector		32
New houses erected		104
Knackers' yards inspected		2
Lodging houses inspected		9
Samples of water analysed		12
Quality of water good or 1st. class	6	
Doubtful purity	4	
Bad	2	
		12
Privies and ashpits emptied by contract in the Township of Penketh	127	
Pail closets do do	170	
		297
Summons issued for failing to abate nuisances		1
Withdrawn on payment of costs		1
Summons issued for keeping un-registered common lodging houses, Penalties 10 - each case		7
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops on register, and inspected		144

CANAL BOATS' ACT.

Number of boats inspected	43
Summons issued for infringements of Acts and Regulations	1
Convictions	1

FRANK W. KERFOOT,

INSPECTOR.